

# AMC Enhances Overseas Logistics Support and Capabilities for the Warfighter

Charles W. Fick Jr.

**T**aking the shape of the Army they serve, two Army Materiel Command (AMC) organizations in Iraq uncased new colors on May 31, 2005. Army Field Support Brigade-Iraq (AFSB-I) replaces AMC Logistics Support Element-Iraq and Equipment Support Activity-Iraq Zone has become Army Field Support Battalion-Iraq (AFSBn-I).



(Above) AFSB-E Soldiers uncased new battalion and company colors during a May 23 ceremony at Hammonds Barracks. The newly designated units provide expeditionary logistics support from locations in England, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy and Germany. (U.S. Army photo by Charles W. Fick Jr.)

(Background) Soldiers from the AFSB-I and the AFSBn-I uncased their new colors during a May 31 ceremony at Logistics Support Area-Anaconda, Balad, Iraq. The newly designated units provide expeditionary logistics support to fighting forces on the front lines in Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by SGM Joe Adelizzi.)



"These newly designated units reflect their parent, Army Field Support Command, and signal a change from the static to the expeditionary. Our structure now matches that of the Army we support," said AFSB-I Commander COL Xavier P. Lobeto.

AMC Commanding General (CG) GEN Benjamin S. Griffin remarked, "These newly designated units are on the forefront of transformation, providing combat logistics support to our troops in the field. The Army Field Support Command and our newest brigade and battalion provide the Army's 911 capability and are able to respond immediately and deliver logistics power wherever and whenever Joint forces require our support."

"Today's ceremonial change validates our concept of expeditionary logistics support," said Lobeto. "Here in Iraq, we've harnessed all AMC's capabilities to serve Soldiers on the battlefield. From installing armor on the vehicle fleet to putting scientists to work on new methods of defeating insurgent tactics, the brigade and battalion are making a direct and positive contribution to the mission."

With more than 2,500 people serving throughout Iraq, AFSB-I and its subordinate battalion are making good on the promise that if a Soldier wears it, drives it, shoots it, flies it or just plain needs it, AMC is poised to deliver it. "We're one team of Soldiers, civilian employees and contractors dedicated to one mission — supporting maneuver units," Lobeto concluded.

### **Europe Logistics Units Provide Power Projection Capability for Combat Units**

Five Europe-based units took a giant step into the future of logistics support



**AMC CG GEN Griffin addresses troops and guests during a May 23 ceremony at Hammonds Barracks. Four battalions and one company from AFSB-E were redesignated to reflect their new role in providing expeditionary logistics support. (U.S. Army photo by Kevin Koehler.)**

during a ceremony on May 23, 2005, at Hammonds Barracks, Seckenheim, Germany. Combat Equipment Battalions in Livorno, Italy; Bettembourg, Luxembourg; Eygelshoven, Netherlands; and Hythe, England were redesignated as Army Field Support Battalions. Additionally, a Combat Equipment Base at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Germany, became an Army Field Support Company.

Griffin noted, "These newly designated units are the first of their kind and establish a more effective way to support expeditionary fighting forces. They are leading the effort in AMC and setting the standard." He continued, "AFSB-Europe (AFSB-E) and its subordinate units are at the tip of the transformation spear, harnessing acquisition, logistics and technology in a way that will improve support to combat forces theaterwide."

"This ceremonial change validates our concept of 21st century logistics support," Lobeto explained. "We've been

adapting to change and shifting our mission focus for some time. Now, we can claim the name that describes what we do — Army Field Support." "The new name reflects a new mission," Lobeto continued. "We're already well down the road of expeditionary logistics support. Two of our four battalion commanders, and many staff members, are deployed from their home stations to combat zones. Brigade headquarters has deployed an operations command post, providing command and control for AMC activities in Iraq," Lobeto remarked.

"The direction of AFSB-E and its subordinate units is tied to two things — the Army's transformation to expeditionary capabilities and the new shape of U.S. Army, Europe [USAREUR] and U.S. European Command [USEUCOM]," Lobeto said. "We deliver Army Field Support Command and AMC capabilities to USAREUR and USEUCOM, so we are smack in the middle of Army transformation."

Today, AFSB-E units are heavily engaged in delivering urgently needed equipment and expert logistics assistance to supported units that include the 1st Armored and 1st Infantry Divisions. "Looking ahead, we will adapt to the new circumstances as USAREUR repositions, and press on doing what we do best — delivering logistics power projection capabilities to combat units," Lobeto concluded.

**CHARLES W. FICK JR.** is the AFSB-E Public Affairs Officer. He is a graduate of the Defense Information School and the University of Oklahoma Short Course in Communications. He is a U.S. Air Force veteran and is an Aviation/Space Writers Association member.